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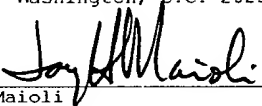
MDJ
10.6.98

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Yuji Maeda et al.
Serial No.: 09/048,076
Filed : March 26, 1998
For : VECTOR SEARCH METHOD
Group A.U.: 2741

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I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited this date with the U.S. Postal Service in first class mail addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.


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(212) 278-0400

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the initial examination of the above-identified application, Applicants respectfully request that the above-identified application be amended as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, line 7, change "a" to --an--;
line 10, change "a" to --an--;
line 13, after "can" insert --be--;
line 16, change "As the" to --For an--;

A